

MARVEL
MK

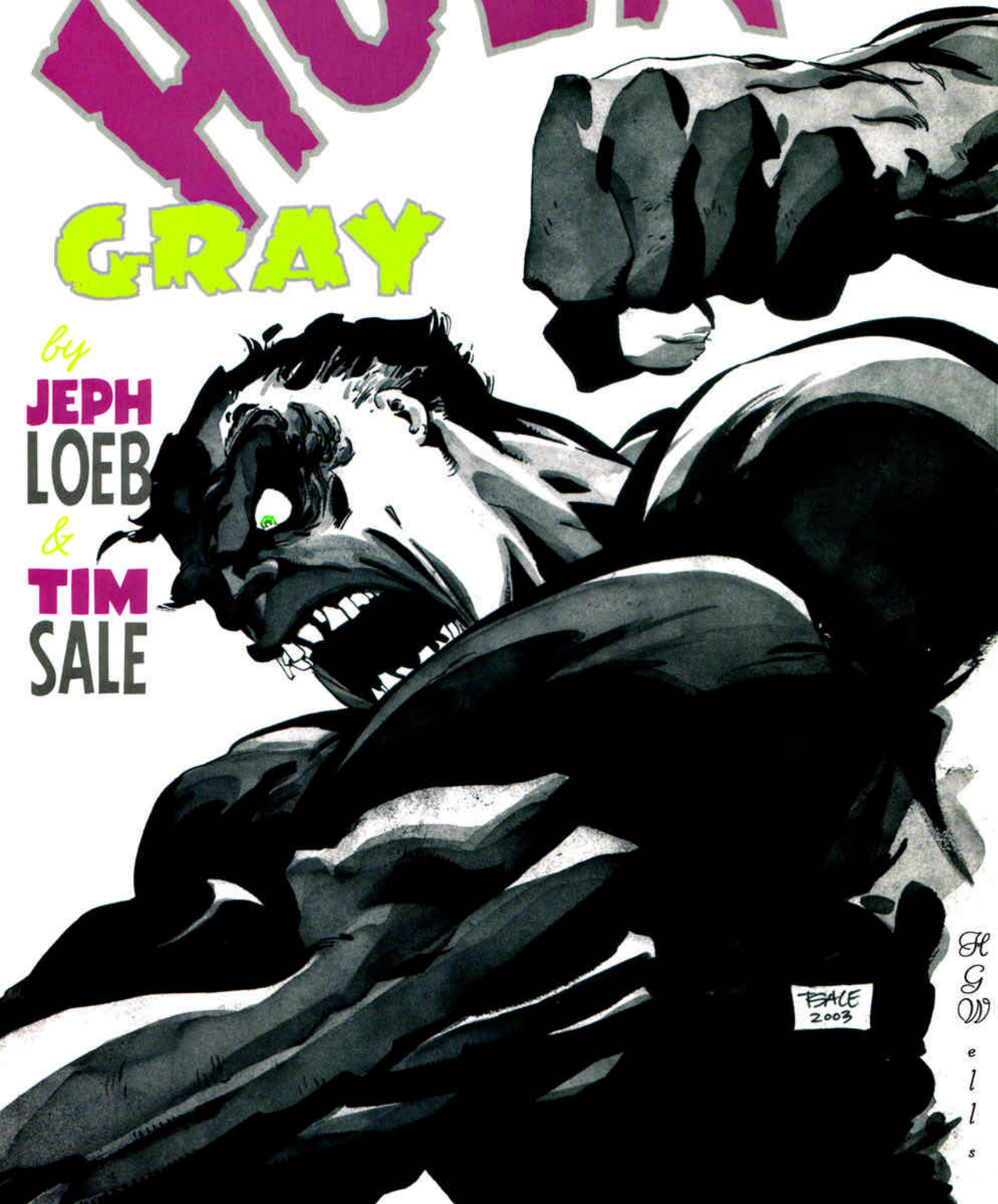
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MARVEL
PSR

WULF

GRAY

by
**JEPH
LOEB**
&
**TIM
SALE**



TEALE
2003

TEALE
2003

HULK

GRAY

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Book **3**

"**C**
IS FOR
CRY"



FRIEND.

DEDICATED TO
**STAN LEE &
JACK KIRBY**
THE ORIGINAL
JADE GIANTS!



GRAY.

LIKE
HULK.

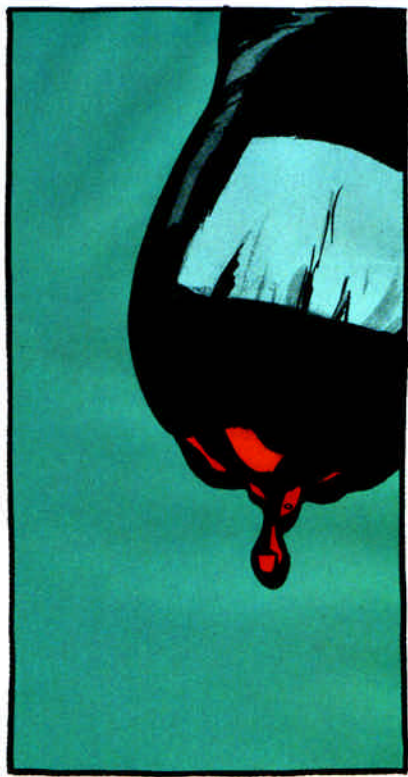


SOFT.

NOT LIKE
HULK.



FRIEND
STAY.



WET?



WHY FRIEND WET?



FRIEND...?



HULK ALONE AGAIN.



ROSS SAY HULK AM MONSTER.

A comic book panel featuring the Hulk. The Hulk is depicted as a large, muscular, green-skinned creature with a fierce, angry expression, showing his teeth. He is shown from the chest up, with his hands clenched into fists. The background is a bright blue sky with vertical lines, suggesting a powerful force or energy. In the upper left, a white speech bubble with a jagged border contains the text "HULK NOT MONSTER!". At the bottom, the sound effect "KTHOOM!" is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. There are several small, dark, jagged fragments floating in the air around the Hulk, indicating a recent impact or destruction. The overall style is classic comic book art with bold lines and a limited color palette.

KTHOOM!

Bruce... why did you tell me that story?

Hmmm? Why?
I don't know, Leonard.
I just remembered it.

Sighé
Don't do that,
Leonard.

Oh.

Don't do what,
Bruce?

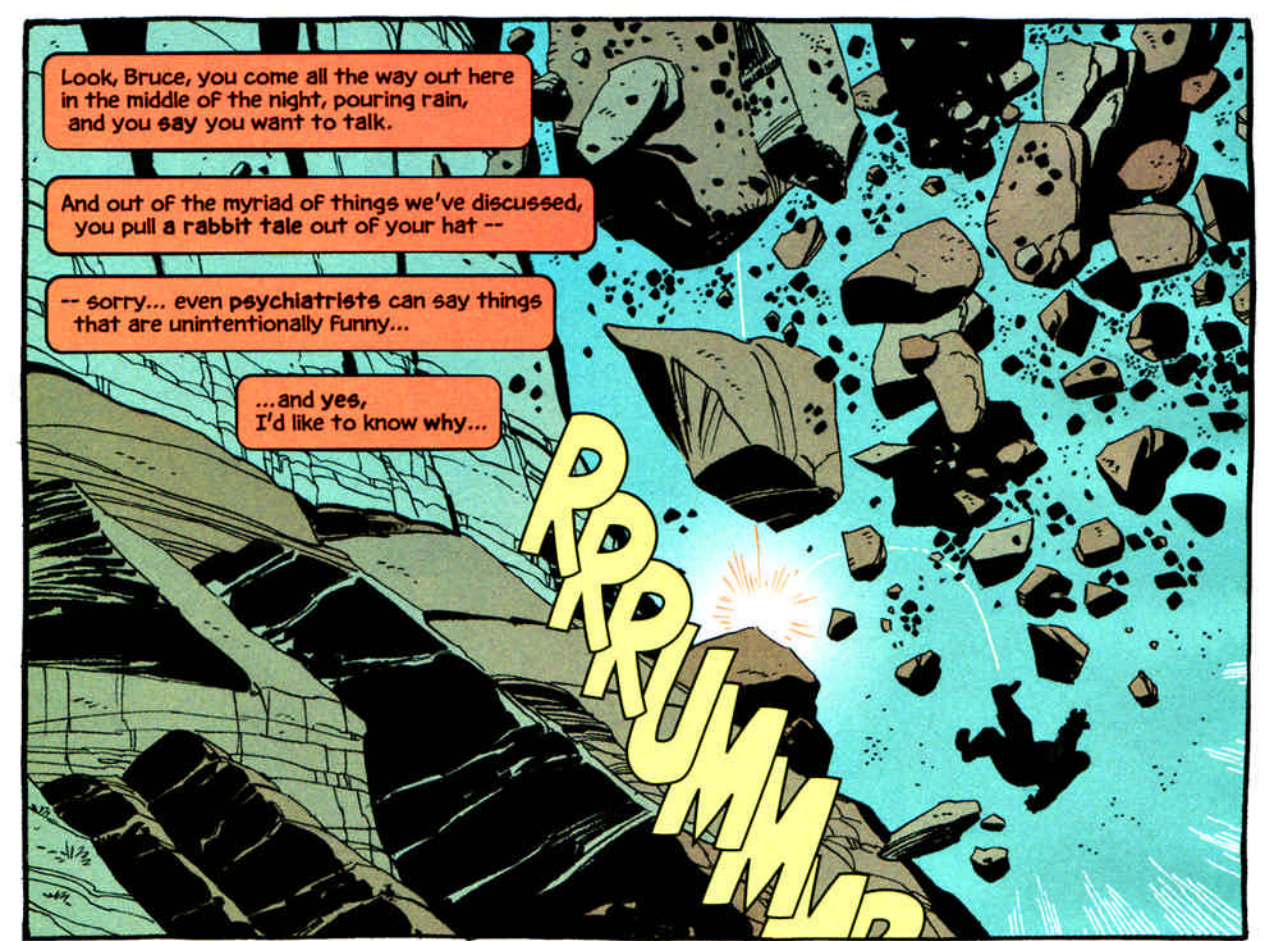
That condescending
psycho-babble
claptrap where you
act like I'm an idiot
for not telling you
why I've told you
something when
I really don't know.

KKK

RRRAA

AAACKK

You got all that
from an "Oh"?




Look, Bruce, you come all the way out here in the middle of the night, pouring rain, and you say you want to talk.

And out of the myriad of things we've discussed, you pull a rabbit tale out of your hat --

-- sorry... even psychiatrists can say things that are unintentionally funny...

...and yes, I'd like to know why...

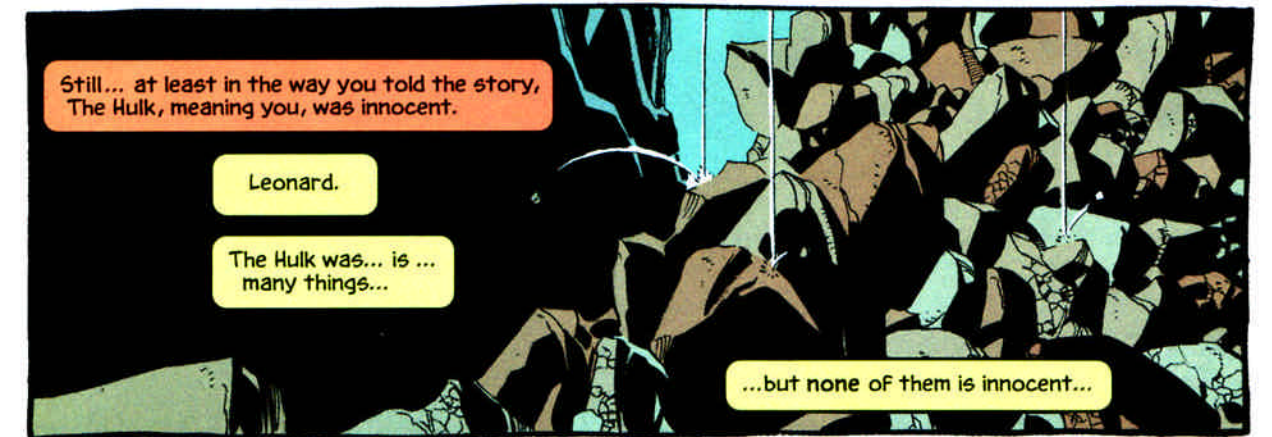
RRRIIIMMM



I think...

I know it was the first time the Hulk actually killed anything.

MBBBLLE



Still... at least in the way you told the story, The Hulk, meaning you, was innocent.

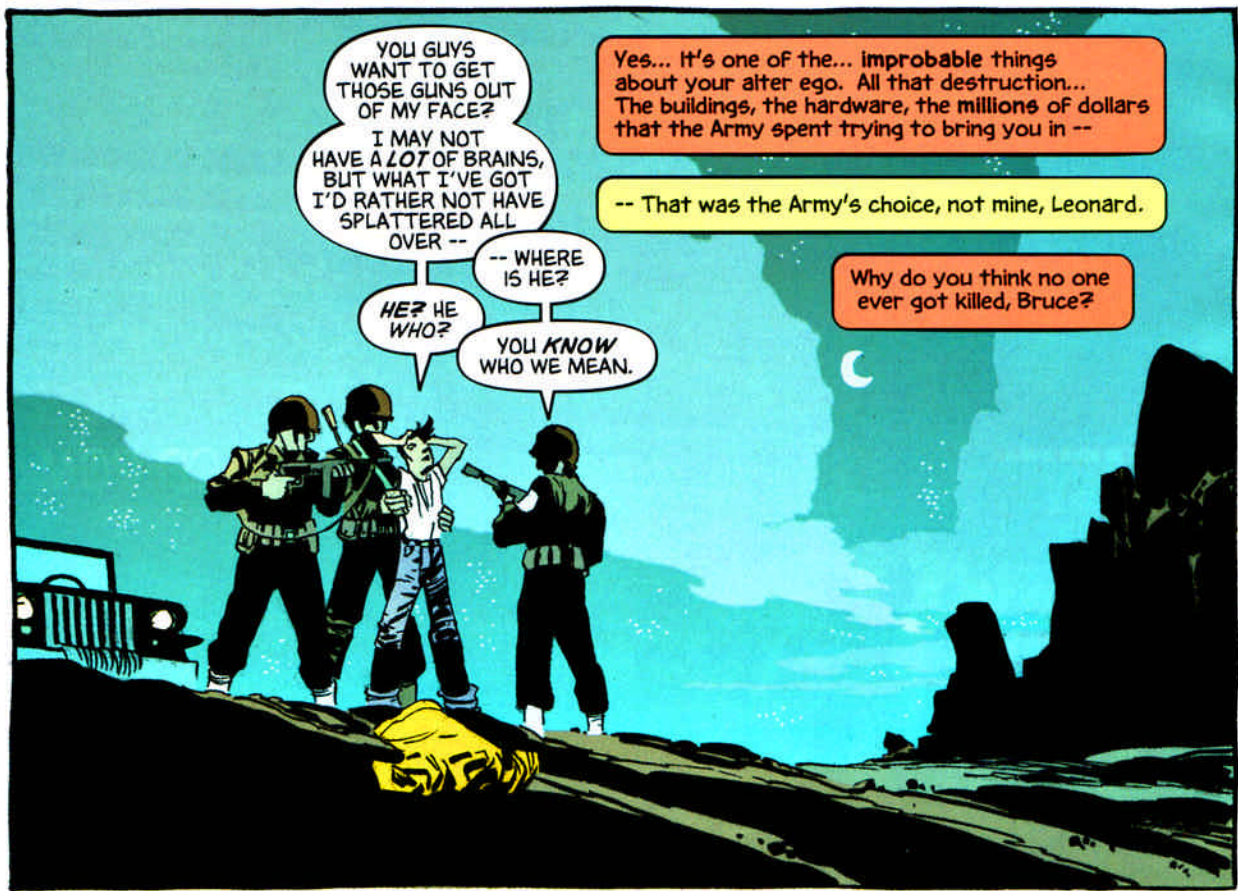
Leonard.

The Hulk was... is ... many things...

...but none of them is innocent...



WHAT D'VA WANT WITH ME?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!



YOU GUYS WANT TO GET THOSE GLINS OUT OF MY FACE?
I MAY NOT HAVE A LOT OF BRAINS, BUT WHAT I'VE GOT I'D RATHER NOT HAVE SPLATTERED ALL OVER --

Yes... it's one of the... improbable things about your alter ego. All that destruction... The buildings, the hardware, the millions of dollars that the Army spent trying to bring you in --

-- That was the Army's choice, not mine, Leonard.

-- WHERE IS HE?

Why do you think no one ever got killed, Bruce?

HE? HE WHO?

YOU KNOW WHO WE MEAN.



CAN'T SAY I DO... UNLESS YOU WANNA BE MORE SPECIFIC.

OKAY, KID, HAVE IT YOUR WAY.



SEE ANYTHING?

NOPE... AND JUST BETWEEN US...

LET'S GET BACK TO BASE ASAP AND KEEP IT THAT WAY...

Bruce...?

I wish I could answer that, Leonard.

And... there're days when I don't want to know, as long as it's true.

C'MON, KID... THEY DIDN'T HIT YOU *THAT* HARD.

THAT'S IT, RICK. TALK TO ME. IT /S RICK, RIGHT?

W-WHERE AM I?

I'LL BE ASKING THE QUESTIONS FOR RIGHT NOW...

AND I'VE GOT ONE *BIG* ONE.

THE HULK. WHERE IS HE?

LOOK, CAPTAIN, I--

CAPTAIN...?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THESE *STARS* ON MY JACKET ARE THERE FOR, BOY?

GOOD ATTENDANCE RECORD?

Then there're days when I could convince myself that Ross put his own men in harm's way hoping he could show the world I was the monster he wanted me to be.



SMART ALEC.

GUESS YOU WEREN'T SO SMART WHEN YOU PARKED YOUR BUTT OUT ON THE GAMMA BOMB TESTING RANGE.

WERE YOU?



I'D HATE TO COUNT THE NUMBER OF FEDERAL LAWS YOU BROKE WITH THAT LITTLE STUNT.

WE'D CALL YOUR PARENTS, BUT, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE AN ORPHAN. SO, NOBODY'S GOING TO MISS A LITTLE SNOT LIKE YOU.

YOU WANT TO CUT TO THE CHASE, PAL? OR IS THIS "BAD-COP, WORSE-COP" ROUTINE ALL YOU GOT?



ONE OF THIS NATION'S MOST PRIZED ASSETS IS DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER.

NO ONE HAS HEARD A PEEP FROM HIM SINCE THE HULK TORE THROUGH THAT CLINIC IN TOWN.

AND SINCE YOU TOOK BANNER TO THAT CLINIC -- POSING AS HIS "SON," WASN'T IT? -- IF HE DOESN'T MAKE AN APPEARANCE PRETTY DAMN QUICK --

-- WE'RE GOING TO ASSUME BANNER IS DEAD, THE HULK KILLED HIM AND THAT MAKES YOU AN ACCESSORY TO MURDER.

AND WHEN DOCTOR BANNER SHOWS UP WON'T YOU LOOK LIKE A JACKASS.



ONE WAY OR ANOTHER YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HULK!

THEN, IT'S GONNA BE AN INCREDIBLY SHORT CONVERSATION 'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW JACK ABOUT ANY "HULK."

PEOPLE HAVE SEEN THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER. YOU'VE GOT NO PLACE LEFT TO RUN.

YOU. AND THE MONSTER.

YEAH, WELL, I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THIS HULK.



WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE HULK?
HE'D JUST AS SOON KILL YOU --



YOU'VE GOT IT SO WRONG IT ISN'T EVEN FUNNY.

THE HULK DOESN'T WANT TO KILL *ANYBODY*.

HE JUST WANTS TO BE LEFT ALONE!

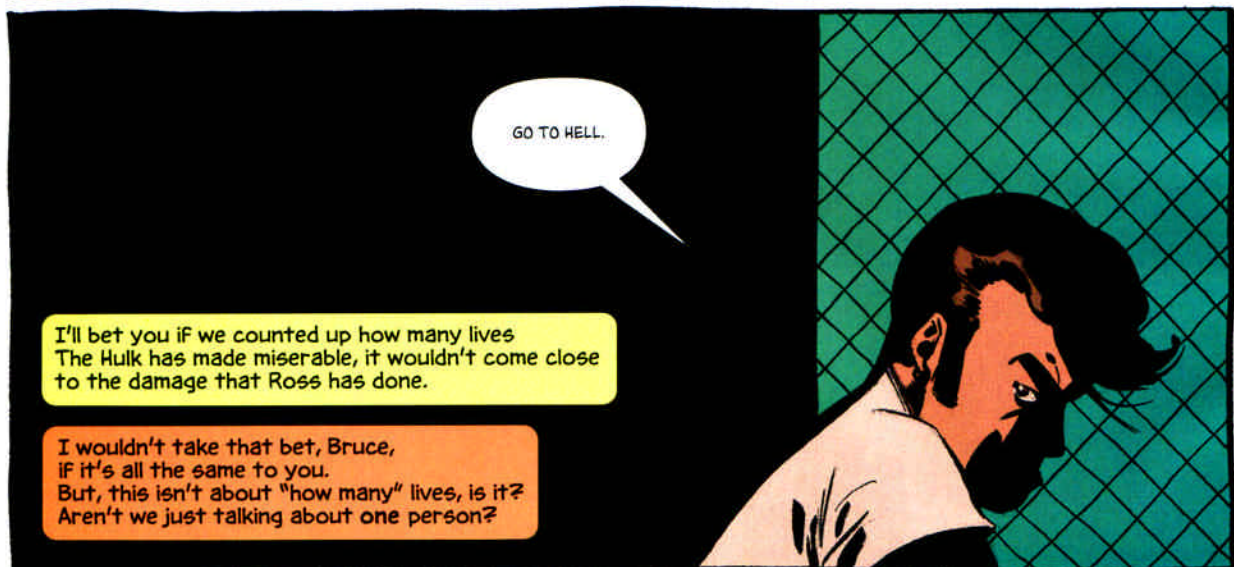


NEVER HEARD OF HIM, HMM...



I'M GOING TO GET SOME COFFEE.

YOU WANT ANYTHING? CIGARETTE? SODA POP?



GO TO HELL.

I'll bet you if we counted up how many lives The Hulk has made miserable, it wouldn't come close to the damage that Ross has done.

I wouldn't take that bet, Bruce, if it's all the same to you. But, this isn't about "how many" lives, is it? Aren't we just talking about one person?

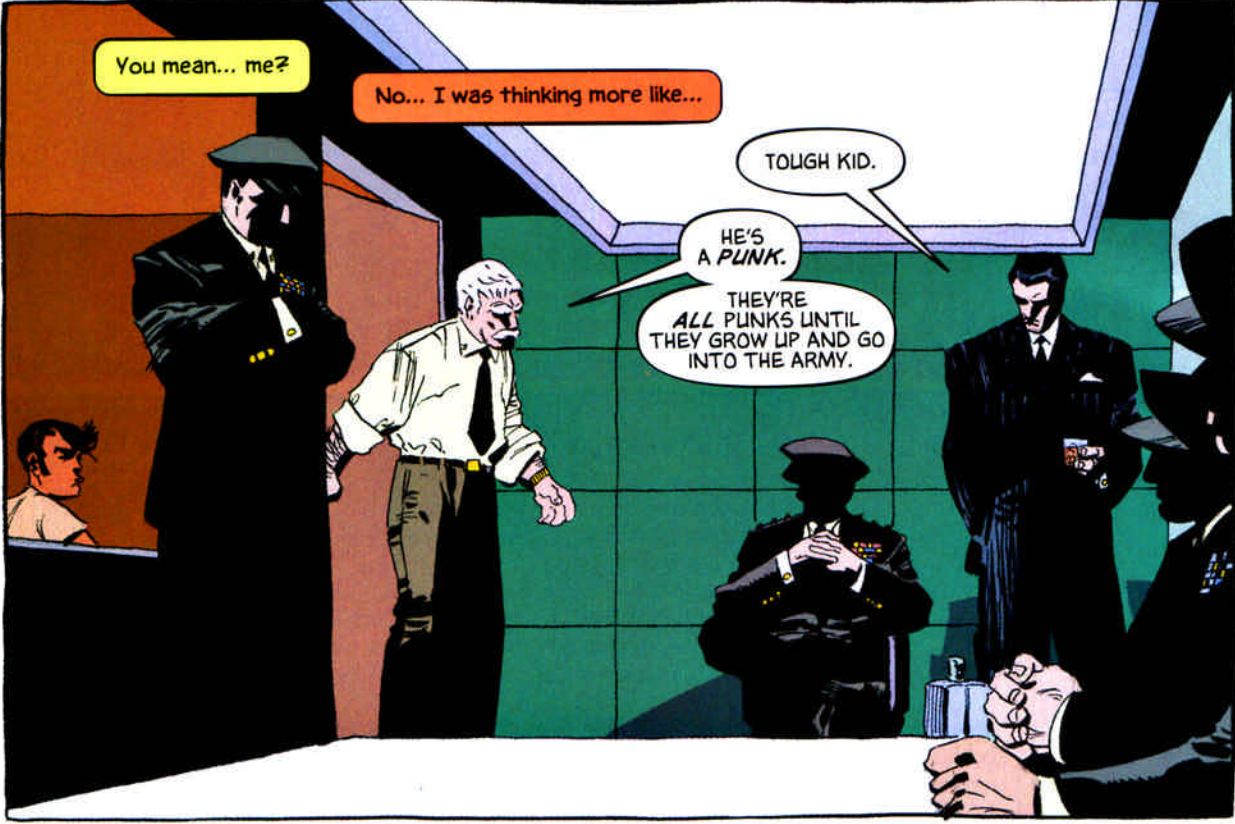
You mean... me?

No... I was thinking more like...

TOUGH KID.

HE'S
A PUNK.

THEY'RE
ALL PUNKS UNTIL
THEY GROW UP AND GO
INTO THE ARMY.



I NEVER WENT
INTO THE ARMY.

MY POINT
EXACTLY.

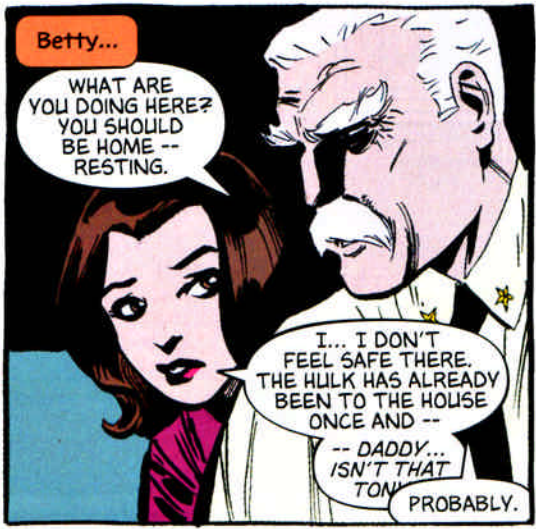
DADDY...?



Betty...

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE?
YOU SHOULD
BE HOME --
RESTING.

I... I DON'T
FEEL SAFE THERE.
THE HULK HAS ALREADY
BEEN TO THE HOUSE
ONCE AND --
-- DADDY...
ISN'T THAT
TOM...
PROBABLY.

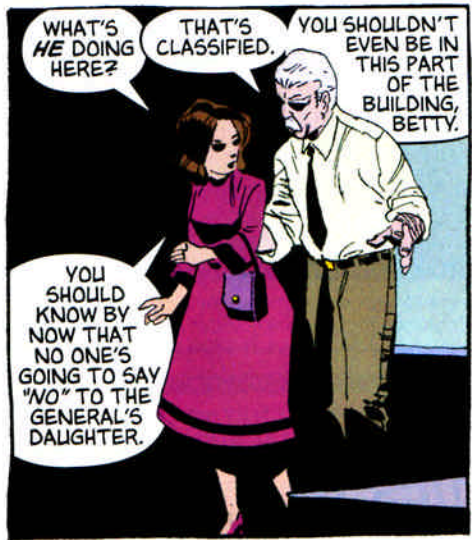


WHAT'S
HE DOING
HERE?

THAT'S
CLASSIFIED.

YOU SHOULDN'T
EVEN BE IN
THIS PART OF
THE BUILDING,
BETTY.

YOU
SHOULD
KNOW BY
NOW THAT
NO ONE'S
GOING TO SAY
"NO" TO THE
GENERAL'S
DAUGHTER.

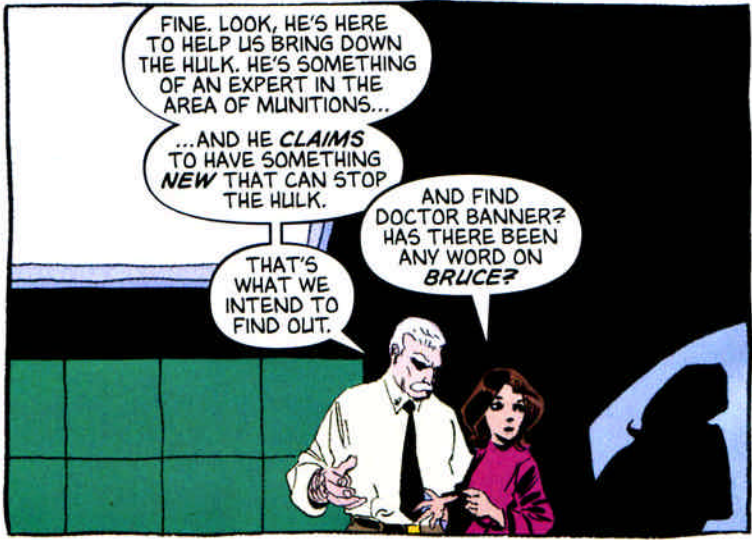


FINE. LOOK, HE'S HERE
TO HELP US BRING DOWN
THE HULK. HE'S SOMETHING
OF AN EXPERT IN THE
AREA OF MUNITIONS...

...AND HE CLAIMS
TO HAVE SOMETHING
NEW THAT CAN STOP
THE HULK.

THAT'S
WHAT WE
INTEND TO
FIND OUT.


AND FIND
DOCTOR BANNER?
HAS THERE BEEN
ANY WORD ON
BRUCE?



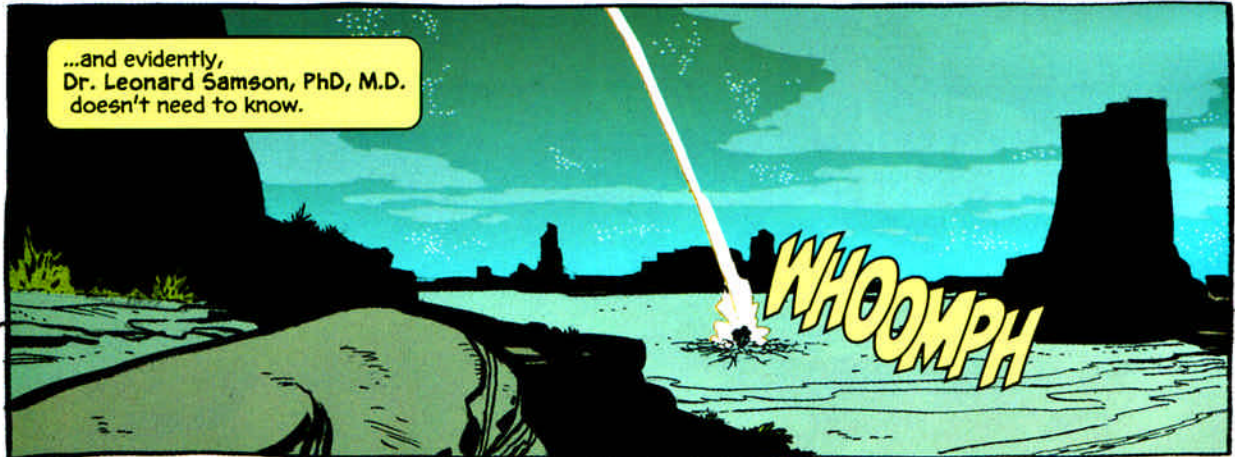


OUT!

If you're talking about who I think you're talking about, why haven't I ever heard about this? Has it been kept classified?



Let's just say, it was in everyone's best interest to keep it on a "Need To Know" basis...



...and evidently, Dr. Leonard Samson, PhD, M.D. doesn't need to know.

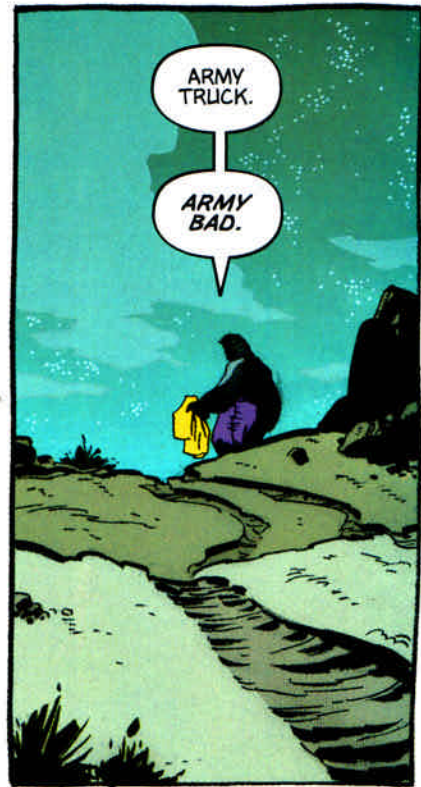
WHOOOMP



RICK.



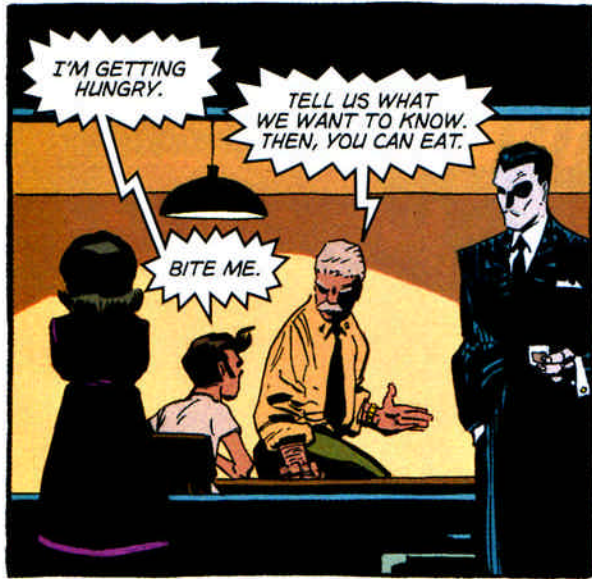
RICK!



ARMY TRUCK.
ARMY BAD.



Even in those days... especially in those days... they had no idea who or what they were dealing with...



I'M GETTING HUNGRY.

TELL US WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW. THEN, YOU CAN EAT.

BITE ME.



YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER? MUST BE TOUGH.

WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?

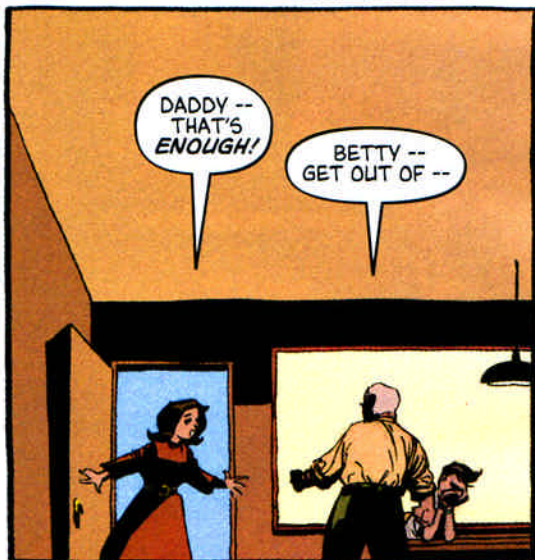
JUST TRYING TO BE FRIENDLY.



I'M TIRED OF YOUR INSUBORDINATION! NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME --

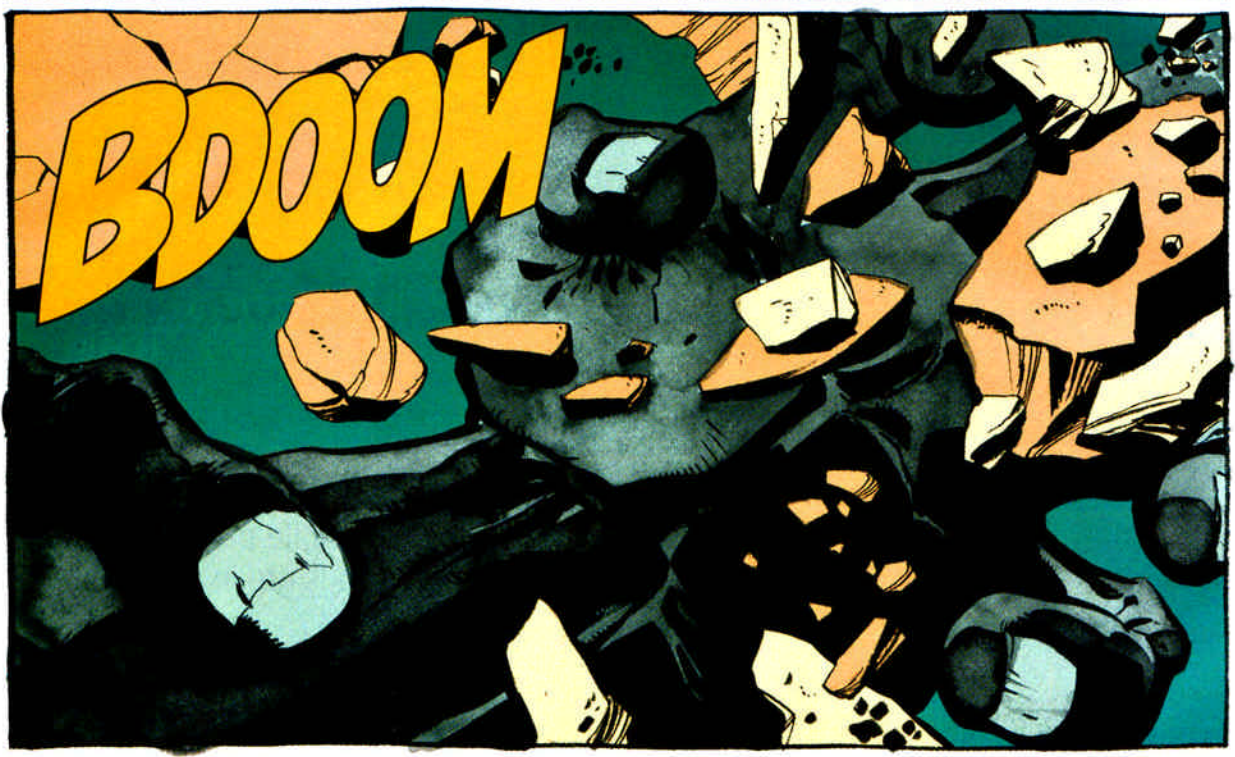
He hit Rick?
A civilian?
A minor?!

Try not to act too surprised, Leonard.



DADDY -- THAT'S ENOUGH!

BETTY -- GET OUT OF --



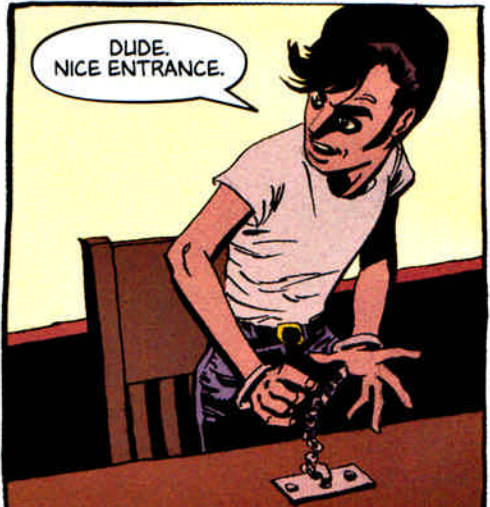
BDOOM



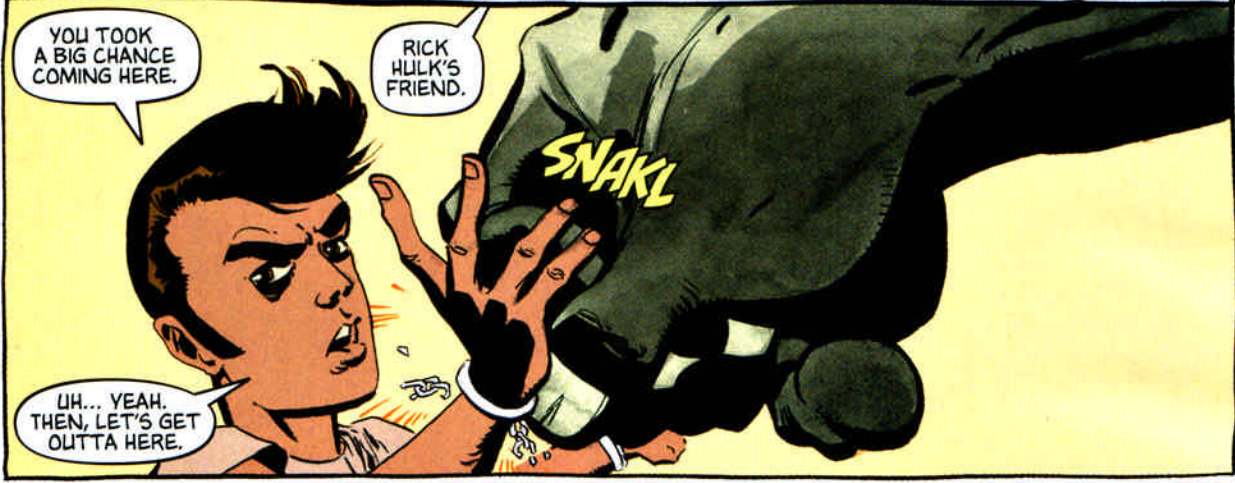
HULK SMASH!



OH MY --



DUDE. NICE ENTRANCE.



YOU TOOK A BIG CHANCE COMING HERE.

RICK HULK'S FRIEND.

SNAKL

UH... YEAH. THEN, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.



YES. JUST GO, YOU STUPID MONSTER -- BEFORE *SOMEONE ELSE* GETS HURT!

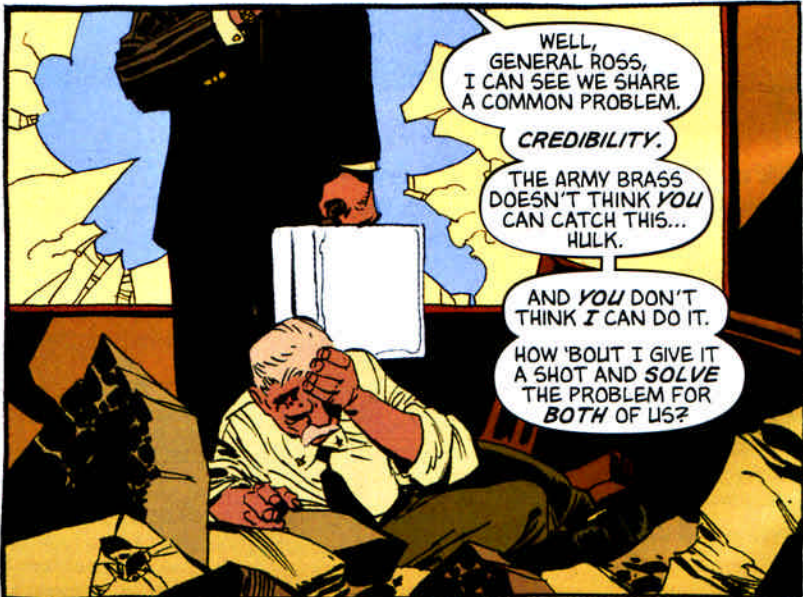
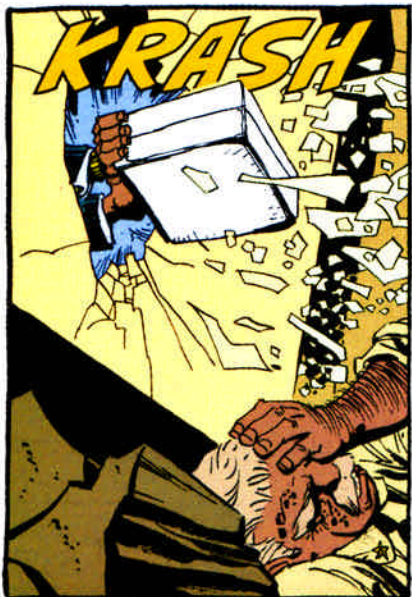


OKAY... LEAVING... NOW.

BETTY.

STOP SAYING MY NAME LIKE YOU KNOW ME!

YOU DO NOT KNOW ME!





BETTY.



BRUCE... ?



EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
BETTY
NO MAKE
NOISE.

I DON'T THINK
THE LADY WANTS
YOUR COMPANY.

PHTOOM

DKUSH

GRRR

**HULK
HURT.
HULK
MAD!**

**MADDER
HULK
GETS--**

**-- STRONGER
HULK GETS!**



I'M TAKING
THE GIRL TO
SAFETY.

I DON'T WANT
TO HURT YOU.

*BUT
I WILL IF
I HAVE TO...*

To this day, Leonard, I'll never understand it.

People say the stupidest things
when they know they can't possibly win...

LOBB
SALE
2003

TO BE CONTINUED